



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## Croatia

### Livestock and Products

## Croatia to permit the import of beef from BSE-free countries

**2004**

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**Report Highlights:**

Croatia recently advised the EU that it would allow the imports of beef from EU countries, like Austria and Finland, that are free of BSE.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Vienna [AU1]  
[HR]

Croatian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Petar Cobankovic announced to the E.U. Agriculture and Fisheries Commissioner Franz Fischler that the ban on imports of cattle and beef from E.U. countries with the lowest incidence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) would be lifted as soon as the Croatian council in charge of monitoring BSE reaches a final decision. This applies especially for beef from Austria and Finland and other low risk countries, which would at the end exclude only Great Britain and Portugal. At that time Cobankovic, also, announced intervention buying of domestically - bred young beef cattle and pigs to pacify domestic producers that have problems with sales of their products.

This is a result of the EU. pressure on Croatia to loosen its BSE related import requirements that is getting stronger. The EU Commission's Board for Consumers demanded that Croatia lift its ban on beef imports from countries that had only a few cases of BSE and they support the Croatian candidacy for the EU. Membership.

Minister Cobankovic will have to proceed with caution on this issue because Croatian farmers, consumers and some politicians like Croatian Peasants Party (HSS) are opposing this. Thus, he claims that he will try to resolve domestic problems in the cattle breeding sector, but not by closing its market to products from the European Union and that if Croatia wants to become integrated into the EU, which is the goal, it is clear that the rules of the game must be respected. He even explained to Croatian consumers that on imported meat labels they should look for country of origin and then decide if they want to buy it.